6th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, we wanted to raise a loan of Rs. 5 crores in the open market. That amount has been allotted to us from the National Development Loan. What does it matter whether we raise it ourselves or get it through the Government of India? But there are certain advantages in the Government of India raising it for us because the rate of interest is a little bit cheaper when it is raised by the Government of India."

Pest attack on paddy cultivation in South Kanara.

* 62 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that many acres of cultivated land in Hosdrug and Nileshwar firkas in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara district, were affected by pests in May and June 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nearly 150 acres of land in Nileshwar and Hosdrug firkas were affected by swarming caterpillar pest during May and June 1954.

"(*b*) Immediately on receipt of information about the pest outbreak the Plant Protection staff and the local field staff of the Agricultural Department were deputed to inspect the area and arrange for control measures. Insecticides and pesticides were sold at the concessional rate of 50 per cent of the cost price. The pest was completely controlled by the first week of June 1954."

* 63 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of land affected by the recent pest attack on paddy cultivation in Hosdrug sub-taluk, South Kanara district; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken to prevent the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to the starred question No. 62 put by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., on the same subject."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As the peasants have incurred much loss due to the pest attack, will the Government consider the desirability of granting land revenue remission in that particular area? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is a different question, Sir. It may be put separately."